

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12  
DOE-15 SOE-02 /107 W  
-----000998 201032Z /14

O 201018Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0517  
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 15385

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP PGOV PEPR EG  
SUBJECT: SHAZLI'S DENUNCIATION OF SADAT

SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO LISBON (FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF) SHAZLI DENOUNCES SADAT, SINAI II, PEACE INITIATIVE AND DELIBERALIZATION. ORDERED RETURN HOME, SHAZLI HAS INDICATED HE WILL NOT OBEY AND BECOME SENIOR EXPATRIATE MILITARY DEFECTOR. FONMIN BELIEVES SHAZLI OUTBURST PROMPTED BY ISRAELI RESPONSE TO USG QUESTIONS. KAMEL EXPRESSED CONCERN OTHERS WILL VIEW RESPONSE IN SAME NEGATIVE LIGHT AND URGE USG TAKE PROMPT ACTION SAVE PEACE PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL SAAD EL SHAZLI YES-  
TERDAY PUBLICLY DENOUNCED PRESIDENT SADAT, SINAI II,  
SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE AND SADAT'S DELIBERALIZATION  
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ACTIONS. SHAZLI'S STATEMENTS ARE NOT CARRIED IN EGYPTIAN PRESS, ALTHOUGH THERE IS BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FONMIN KAMEL HAS SUSPENDED THE AMBASSADOR/GENERAL AND ORDERED HIM TO RETURN TO EGYPT IMMEDIATELY TO EXPLAIN STATEMENTS THAT HE HAD MADE. KAMEL TOLD ME LAST NIGHT THAT HE UNDERSTANDS SHAZLI WILL NOT RETURN, SINCE THE AMBASSADOR/GENERAL BELIEVES HE WOULD BE PUT IN PRISON IF

HE DID. IF HE IS RIGHT, SHAZLI IS LIKELY TO BE A SENIOR  
EXPATRIATE MILITARY DEFECTOR.

2. KAMEL, WHO WAS CONSIDERABLY TROUBLED BY SHAZLI'S  
ACTION, ADMITTED THAT SHAZLI HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN A  
MAVERICK. (WE RECALL THAT WHEN AMBASSADOR TO LONDON  
SEVERAL YEARS AGO, HE PUBLICLY CRITICIZED SADAT'S POLICIES  
AND RECEIVED A PRESIDENTIAL REPRIMAND.) KAMEL PROFESSED  
TO BELIEVE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE TIMING OF SHAZLI'S  
LATEST OUTBURST WAS PROMPTED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF  
THE ISRAELI RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTIONS. HE EXPRESSED  
CONSIDERABLE CONCERN THAT OTHER EGYPTIANS, INCLUDING  
MILITARY MEN, WILL SEE THEM IN THE SAME TOTALLY NE-  
GATIVE LIGHT. UNLESS USG ACTS PROMPTLY AND DECISIVELY  
TO SAVE THE PEACE PROCESS BY PRESENTING A PROPOSAL OF  
ITS OWN, KAMEL SAID, THE ISRAELI RESPONSE IS GOING  
TO AROUSE WIDESPREAD QUESTIONING AT HOME AND ABROAD  
AS TO THE WISDOM OF THE POLICIES SADAT HAS PURSUED.  
IN THIS CONNECTION, KAMEL NOTED UK HAD ISSUED STATEMENT  
CRITICIZING ISRAELI RESPONSE AND ASKED RHETORICALLY  
HOW, IF BRITISH GOVT AND VIRTUALLY WHOLE WORLD DO SO,  
CAN GOE DO ANYTHING LESS. HE SAID THAT IN HIS COMMENTS  
TO THE PRESS AFTER OUR MEETING EARLIER IN THE DAY,  
HE HAD TRIED TO BE RESTRAINED. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER,  
HE HAD TO FRANKLY EXPRESS GOE'S VIEW THAT THE ISRAELI  
RESPONSE IS A FURTHER REFLECTION OF BEGIN'S INTRANSI-  
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GENCE (SEPTEL).

3. WHETHER OR NOT SHAZLI'S ACTION IS DIRECTLY RELATED  
TO THE ISRAELI RESPONSE IS DEBATABLE, THOUGH TIMING  
OF THE AMBASSADOR/GENERAL'S LATEST OUTBURST IS CURIOUS.  
SHAZLI WAS CHIEF OF STAFF DURING THE OCTOBER 1973  
WAR, WITH A PENCHANT FOR OUTSPOKENNESS. HE WAS  
FORCEABLY RETIRED SHORTLY AFTER OCTOBER WAR FOR  
DEFENDING HIS LEADERSHIP OF MILITARY PUBLICLY. SADAT,  
IN HIS RECENTLY PUBLISHED AUTOBIOGRAPHY, BLAMES SHAZLI  
FOR FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE AND REACT QUICKLY ENOUGH TO  
THE ISRAELI BRIDGEHEAD WEST OF THE CANAL. FOR REASONS  
THAT ARE A BIT OBSCURE, BUT SOME HAVE SUGGESTED HAVE  
TO DO WITH SHAZLI'S POPULARITY IN THE OFFICER CORPS,  
SADAT APPOINTED HIM AS AMBASSADOR TO LONDON IN JAN-  
UARY 1974. HE WAS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL  
IN JUNE 1975. WE ARE SEEKING TO ASSESS MILITARY  
REACTION TO SHAZLI'S STATEMENTS.

4. FOR LISBON: WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY DETAILS  
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ON CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH  
SHAZLI MADE HIS STATEMENTS AND TEXT OF WHAT HE SAID.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, PGOV, PEPR, EG, PO, (SHAZLI, SAAD EL)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014